



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents  
**FROM:** Valerie Grey *Val Grey*  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Regents Budget Priorities for 2012-13  
**DATE:** November 4, 2011  
**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *John J.*

**Executive Summary**

**Issue for Decision**

Approval of the proposed 2012-13 Regents Budget Priorities other than State Aid to School Districts, which is handled separately through the Regents Subcommittee on State Aid.

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Board input and direction are sought in the approval of the Department's annual budget request.

**Proposed Handling**

Discussion and decision.

**Procedural History**

Each year the Regents identify budget priorities for Department programs.

**Background Information**

Given the current fiscal climate and continuing State Budget deficits, the budget priorities recommended to the Board are limited to those that will ensure the viability and integrity of the Department's Assessment Program. Funding of \$10 million is needed to support baseline assessments as well as the new assessments for implementation of the teacher evaluation system. Additional funding of \$2.1 million is needed to ensure the integrity of the 3-8 assessments and Regents exams and will provide the ability to do increased analysis and pilot computer based testing (CBT).

The Tenured Teacher Hearing account continues to experience an accumulated deficit, approximately \$10 million, due to insufficient funding. The Board advanced a legislative reform package (S.4629/A.6225) that would reduce and control costs and shorten the length of time it takes to complete hearings. The State Budget should include these reforms and adequately fund hearing costs.

In order to continue to offer high school equivalency exam services, it is important to fund the GED program at the 2011-12 level. In addition, there are a number of changes contemplated in the GED tests in 2014 that may result in increased demand for tests in 2012-13.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the 2012-13 Budget Priorities as follows (\$ millions):

#### **Office of P-12 Education**

Assessment Program	\$10.0
Test Integrity	<u>\$ 2.1</u>
Total P-12	\$12.1

Attachments



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## **NEW YORK STATE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

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### **2012-13 SED BUDGET PRIORITY**

#### ***The Issue:***

In 2011-12, the Board of Regents requested \$15.0 million in General Fund support for the statewide assessments and Regents Examinations. The 2011-12 enacted State Budget included funding of \$7.0 million, leaving a shortfall of \$8.0 million. This shortfall is being addressed through a combination of programmatic actions (\$4.1 million) and cost reductions and other savings (\$3.9 million).

Programmatic actions included elimination of Regents Italian, French and Spanish exams, postponement of the development of ELA 9 and ELA 10 exams, and the elimination of Grades 5 and 8 Social Studies exams. The January administration of Regents Exams was also eliminated. However, in September 2011, the Board of Regents approved the acceptance of \$1.5 million from two not-for-profit organizations to reinstate the January 2012 Regents exam administration.

Cost reductions and other savings include curtailment of vendor contracts which includes the elimination of work and in-sourcing, workforce actions, production efficiencies, and maximizing other funding sources. Further cost containment actions are being evaluated to close a remaining \$400,000 gap.

#### ***2012-13 Budget Request - \$10.0 Million State Funds***

Funding of \$10 million is needed to support baseline assessments as well as the new assessments for implementation of the teacher evaluation system.

For 2012-13, General Fund support of \$8.5 million is necessary to maintain the exams that will be administered this school year.

- Continuation of funding from 2011-12 - \$7.0 million
- January 2013 Regents exam funding - \$1.5 million

In addition, implementation of a robust and meaningful teacher and leader evaluation system hinges on the availability of statewide assessments.

- Development of new ELA 9 and 10 exams - \$1.5 million



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## **IMPROVE INTEGRITY OF THE STATE'S TESTS**

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### **2012-13 SED BUDGET PRIORITY**

#### ***The Issue:***

The Board of Regents is committed to ensuring the integrity of the 3-8 assessments and Regents exams in order to continue to: (1) accurately measure student performance; and (2) develop our testing program into the sophisticated and rigorous system necessary to support meaningful education reform. In order to ensure integrity of the State's tests, the Board of Regents is:

- Requesting \$2.1 M in 2012-13 for increased analysis and a pilot for Computer Based Testing (CBT);
- Prohibiting, commencing in 2012-13 School Year, teachers from scoring their own student's exams. Districts must develop the capacity to implement alternative scoring processes, such as external, regional, or distributed technology for the scoring of open responses on State assessments;
- Undertaking an independent review of the Department's procedures related to incident reporting and follow-up on allegations of testing impropriety and creating a working group to enhance local monitoring protocol requirements.

#### ***2012-13 Budget Request -- \$2.1 Million State Funds***

- \$1.0 million to perform erasure analysis (for pencil responses) and wrong-answer analysis (for ink responses) for 10% of Spring 2012 3-8 assessments and Regents exams. This additional funding would cover approximately 500,000 answer sheets.
- \$0.7 million to provide additional inter-rater reliability studies for spring 2012 3-8 assessments and Regents exams. Inter-rater reliability studies are conducted after tests have been administered to measure the consistency with which two or more scorers rate the work or performance of test takers on open response items. These studies provide important evidence regarding the quality of test scoring and the appropriate application of scoring rubrics.
- \$0.2 million to plan and begin a computer based testing (CBT) pilot to learn more about the benefits of this testing model, the possible cost efficiencies, and the challenges that the State and districts will face in implementation.
- \$0.2 million to support additional data forensics. Using better detection methods, the Department can both investigate potential abuses of the system and deter cheating in the future. This will be undertaken by partnering with researchers and scholars to improve our ability to identify testing irregularities.